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## ***SENATOR CARDIN ATTENDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR FT. MEADE'S NEW SOLDIER AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER***

FORT MEADE, MD – **U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin** (D-MD) today attended the groundbreaking for a new Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) at Fort George G. Meade. The groundbreaking was for two modular buildings that will house the installations Soldier and Family Assistance Center and Warrior Transition Unit administrative offices.

“Our soldiers are the best in the world and we have made a promise that we will be there for them to provide the support and services they need as they heal,” said **Senator Cardin**. “I have been a strong supporter of a new, expanded Soldier and Family Assistance Center at Fort Meade so that we can provide assistance to more soldiers and their families as they work to recover physically, mentally and spiritually.”

The goal of the SFAC is to partner with the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center to coordinate resources and provide comprehensive services to soldiers and their families in an environment that fosters physical, mental and spiritual healing. The WTU helps prepare soldiers to return to their units, reclassify to other military occupational specialties or transition to a life outside the military.

The Construction of the \$1.5 million project is scheduled to start in November with completion expected in September 2010. The new SFAC building will allow for the expansion of services to the more than 150 soldiers now being serviced. It also will include office space, a conference and training room, a handicapped-accessible kitchen, a child activity room and a playground. The new WTU administration building will provide office space for the squad leaders and platoon leaders who are part of the unit's cadre.

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